INTRODUCTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

YOU HAVE ASKED THAT I SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT, "ADP IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE." BUT, BEFORE I TURN TO THIS, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU ON THE FORMATION OF THIS GROUP. ALTHOUGH YOU REPRESENT MANY DIFFERENT AGENCIES WITH A BROAD VARIETY OF DATA PROCESSING APPLICATIONS, YOU SHARE MANY PROBLEMS. AND, YOU ALSO HAVE A COMMONALITY IN INTEREST THAT MAKES CLOSE COMMUNICATION AMONG YOU HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

YOU ALSO REPRESENT A MOST UNIQUE USERS GROUP. IN YOUR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES ARE COMPUTER SYSTEMS OF PROBABLY EVERY MAJOR MANUFACTURER. WHILE MOST USER GROUPS ARE ALIGNED TO THE EQUIPMENT OF A SINGLE MANUFACTURER, YOU HAVE THE BROADER OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF THE USER IN A MULTI SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT -- WHERE MATTERS OF COMPATIBILITY AND INTERCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN EQUIPMENT OF VARIOUS MANUFACTURERS CAN BE ASSESSED IN THE COOL AND PRACTICAL TERMS OF ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.

HOWEVER, AS IN THE CASE OF EVERY NEW ORGANIZATION, NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL, A BEGINNING IS, AS THE TERM IMPLIES, SIMPLY THE START OF AN EFFORT. THROUGH DEDICATED HARD WORK AND THE FULL EXPLOITATION OF THE POTENTIAL THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS, YOU CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION, NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENT, BUT TO THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

HOPEFULLY, FROM THE VERY START, ALL OF YOU WILL APPROACH THE WORK OF THE FEDERAL ADP USERS GROUP WITH THE HIGH DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM UPON WHICH SUCCESS DEPENDS. IT IS FOR THIS REASON, THEREFORE, THAT I CONGRATULATE THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE GROUP AND THE OFFICERS YOU HAVE ELECTED.

THE SUBJECT, "DATA PROCESSING IN GOVERNMENT -- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE," IS FAR TOO BROAD TO COVER IN ANY COMPREHENSIVE MANNER IN A TALK OF THIS KIND. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO IS TOUCH ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS AND SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES I BELIEVE MERIT OUR PARTICULAR ATTENTION IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT HAS PASSED, AND IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENT CAPABILITIES.

SOME 5 YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE PASSAGE OF PUBLIC LAW 89-306. THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM TO DATE DEPENDS ENTIRELY UPON YOUR POINT OF VIEW. CERTAINLY, BY ALL ODDS WE ARE ABOVE AND BEYOND ANY LEVEL OF COMPUTER MANAGEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE MIGHT HAVE DEVELOPED WITHOUT THIS LEGISLATION. ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GSA, BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND INFORMATION FROM THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET, THE TAXPAYERS HAVE REALIZED COST AVOIDANCES, OR SAVINGS, IN THE ORDER OF ABOUT A BILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE LEADING UP TO AND INCLUDING ENACTMENT OF THIS LAW.

WE ARE GETTING BETTER PRICES ON SOME OF OUR COMPUTER PURCHASES. WE ARE DOING BETTER UNDER OUR ACTIVE SHARING PROGRAM. TO A MINOR DEGREE, THE STANDARDS EFFORT HAS ADVANCED. GRADUALLY, GSA HAS BUILT UP A WORKING STAFF TO DEAL WITH THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM. FURTHERMORE, MOST OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN GETTING THEIR DATA PROCESSING OPERATION IN ORDER.

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN RECOGNIZING THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AS CONTRASTED TO BEING SATISFIED WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO. REGARDLESS OF PAST SUCCESSES, WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO:

OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE, IN MY OPINION, IS TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF OUR ADP INVENTORY SYSTEM. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRACTICALLY EVERY FACET OF A MORE SOPHISTICATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT WE HAVE RELIABLE, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON WHAT COMPUTERS WE HAVE, WHERE THEY ARE, AND WHAT TASKS ARE ASSIGNED TO THEM. THIS INVENTORY SYSTEM SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF GIVING INFORMATION OF THIS KIND ON A CONSTANT, UP-TO-DATE BASIS. INFORMATION THAT IS SIX MONTHS OUT OF DATE IS OF LITTLE VALUE IN THE TYPE OF DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT OPERATION WE NEED AND MUST DEVELOP.

A SECOND FUNDAMENTAL IS TO MOVE AHEAD IN THE AREA OF VOLUME PROCUREMENTS SO AS TO DEPEND LESS AND LESS ON GSA OPEN END SCHEDULE CONTRACTS. AS GSA HAS PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS MEANS BIG SAVINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER AREA OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IS THE DETERMINATION OF SOME TYPE OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TO EVALUATE CENTRAL PROCESSING AND PERIPHERAL COMPONENT CAPABILITY. TIME HAS PROVEN AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MANUFACTURERS ARE AN UNRELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION OF THIS KIND.

ANOTHER AREA THAT WE MUST STRESS IS COMPUTER SOFTWARE. TO MOST PEOPLE, AND I AM AFRAID EVEN A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE COMPUTER COMMUNITY, SOFTWARE REMAINS A SHAPELESS, UNDETERMINABLE MASS, PURCHASED AT EXCESSIVE COSTS, OF QUESTIONABLE QUALITY AND VIRTUE. IN THIS AREA, WE MUST DEVELOP AN INVENTORY OF GOVERNMENT SOFTWARE. THE STARK REALITIES OF INCOMPATIBILITY OVERWHELM ANY ILLUSION WE MIGHT HAVE THAT THE SOFTWARE WE NOW HAVE COULD BE USED IN THE FUTURE BY OTHER AGENCIES. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE, WE NEED TO KNOW WHO IS DOING WHAT NOW. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE INVENTORY, PERHAPS WE CAN AVOID THE DEVELOPMENT OF 104 INDEPENDENT PAYROLL SYSTEMS IN THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE NEXT CYCLE OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT.

ANOTHER AREA REQUIRING OUR SPECIFIC ATTENTION IS THE MAINTENANCE OF
INFORMATION ON COMPUTER DATA TAPES. THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT -- AND IN
PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS AS WELL -- ARE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF DATA
TAPES HOPELESSLY DEPENDENT UPON SOME SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE IDENTIFICATIC
OF THE DATA THEY CONTAIN. WE MUST MAKE DATA TAPES INDEPENDENT SO THAT THE
INFORMATION THEY CONTAIN CAN BE PRINTED UP AND UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT A SERIOUS
PROGRAMMING EFFORT AND WITHOUT RELIANCE UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PROGRAM
GENERATED THEM.

ALONG THIS SAME LINE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF STANDARDIZII:
THE HANDLING OF DATA BY COMPUTERS. I BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
COMPUTER INDUSTRY SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE ADVANTAGES OF A STANDARD
FOREMAT FOR DATA INDEPENDENT OF THE HIGH LEVEL LANGUAGE THAT IS USED FOR
PROGRAMMING. THIS APPROACH, OF COURSE, REQUIRES THE INPUT OF COMPUTER
EXPERTS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL EXPERTS, WHOSE JUDGMENT I RESPECT, HAVE SUGGESTED
ITS CONSIDERATION.

LAST, WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE COMPUTER AND PERIPHERAL INTERFACE
PROBLEM. WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE OR PRACTICAL TO EXPECT ALL COMPUTER
MANUFACTURERS TO ADOPT IN UNISON A STANDARD INTERFACE BETWEEN THE PROCESSING
UNIT AND THE TAPE DRIVES, PRINTERS, AND OTHER PERIPHERAL COMPONENTS IS HIGHLY
CONJECTURAL. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT SOME TYPE OF SOLUTION TO THIS
INTERFACE PROBLEM CANNOT BE WORKED OUT. TO MEET WHAT WAS AN EXTREMELY SIMPLE,
BUT IN SOME RESPECTS COMPARABLE PROBLEM, THE PHONOGRAPH RECORD MANUFACTURERS
SOME YEARS AGO DEVELOPED PERIPHERAL DEVICES -- THAT IS THE RECORD PLAYER --
SO THAT IT COULD BE ADJUSTED TO PLAY THE RECORDS OF DIFFERENT SPEEDS.
FUTHERMORE, AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS, IN THE PRODUCTION OPERATION,
GIVE THE BUYER BROAD LATITUDE IN THE CHOICE OF AUTO COMPONENTS.

IF PERIPHERAL MANUFACTURERS COULD MOVE IN THESE DIRECTIONS, THERE WOULD
BE ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE PROCESSOR MANUFACTURERS TO SEEK A COMMON GROUND
WITH THEM. WERE THIS INTERFACE PROBLEM SOLVED, WE COULD INJECT CONSIDERABLE
COMPETITION INTO PERIPHERAL PROCUREMENT. ALTHOUGH ESTIMATES OF SAVINGS TO
THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT PROVE ILLUSIONARY, THERE IS SOLID BASIS FOR PREDICTING
THAT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN COMPUTER PERIPHERALS WOULD ADVANCE
SIGNIFICANTLY. FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, THIS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN COMPUTERS IS
OVERWHELMING, BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS NOT ASLEEP. IN JAPAN, WE HAVE
AN ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION CAPABILITY THAT, IF PERMITTED, COULD ROB THE UNITED
STATES OF MUCH OF OUR WORLD MARKET. OUR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY IS OUR
PRINCIPLE ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED LEADERSHIP IN THE COMPUTER FIELD. AND, IF
WE SHOULD EVER LOSE THIS LEADERSHIP, I FEAR THAT OUR NATION'S LEADERSHIP
THROUGHOUT THE SPECTRUM OF WORLD AFFAIRS MIGHT ALSO BE BADLY COMPROMISED.
AS IN THE CASE OF MOST ALL ENDEAVORS, THOSE WHO WORK FROM DAY TO DAY IN THE
VARIOUS DISCIPLINES THAT MAKE UP SOCIETY HAVE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE FIELDS TO WHICH THEY DEVOTE THEIR TIME.

IN THE PROBLEM AREAS THAT I HAVE MENTIONED -- IN COUNTLESS OTHERS AS
WELL, THE GROUP THAT YOU HAVE FORMED HAS A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY. MAKE
THE MOST OF IT. I CONGRATULATE YOU AGAIN ON WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO START.
I OFFER YOU BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE AS WELL AS ANY ASSISTANCE IT IS
POSSIBLE FOR ME TO GIVE YOU.

THANK YOU.

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